

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

ORDER NO. 98-061

REQUIRING THE CITY OF GRASS VALLEY  
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT  
NEVADA COUNTY  
TO CEASE AND DESIST FROM  
DISCHARGING WASTE CONTRARY TO REQUIREMENTS

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, (hereafter Board) finds:

1. On 9 August 1996, the Board adopted Order No. 96-200 prescribing waste discharge requirements for the City of Grass Valley (hereafter Discharger) Wastewater Treatment Plant. On that same date, the Board adopted Cease and Desist Order No. 96-199, which directed the Discharger to take actions to correct and prevent water quality impacts resulting from the City's wastewater treatment plant and collection system.
2. Order No. 96-200 established receiving water limitations for ammonia, which the Discharger may not be able to consistently meet until it completes new facilities to be built as part of its treatment plant expansion. Order No. 96-199 allows the Discharger to complete the new facilities before the ammonia limitations take effect. Order No. 96-199 also directs the Discharger to continue implementation of its Collection System Improvement Program to reduce infiltration and inflow (I/I), improve treatment plant performance, and minimize threats of collection system overflows. These portions of Order No. 96-199 are still necessary.
3. Order No. 96-199 also directs the Discharger to take steps to prevent accidental discharge of sludge from its digester and to prevent violations of effluent limitations for pH. The Discharger has satisfied these requirements which therefore are no longer necessary in a Cease and Desist Order.
4. In performing the design of its improvements, the Discharger determined that, because of high I/I into its collection system during large storm events, its treatment plant will not be able to store or provide full secondary treatment to all of the wastewater it will receive. Accordingly, the Discharger has requested that Order No. 96-200 be revised to address the manner in which the plant must operate to allow it to handle the high flows while still protecting receiving water quality. Revision of Order No. 96-200 requires revision of Order No. 96-199 in order to continue to address receiving water limitations for ammonia and to address collection system improvements.
5. The revised discharge requirements provide, in part, the following:
  - AA.2. The by-pass or overflow of wastes to surface waters is prohibited, except as allowed by Standard Provision A.13 and as allowed by Provisions E.1 and E.2.≡
  - AD.1. The discharge shall not cause the following in the receiving water:

Concentrations of ammonia in Wolf Creek which would result in a four-day average total ammonia concentration greater than the value associated with the concurrent receiving water pH and temperature, as provided in Attachment B, which is hereby made a part of this Order.≡

6. On 26 June 1992, the Regional Board adopted Cease and Desist Order No. 92-112 directing the City of Grass Valley to cease discharging wastes in violation of BOD and Total Suspended Matter (TSM) limitations contained in Order No. 89-005 (waste discharge requirements in effect at the time) and to continue implementation of its Collection System Improvement Program to reduce I/I. The Discharger has ceased violating BOD and TSM limitations and has made improvements to its collection system. However, extremely high influent flows and collection system overflows during storm events and significant clear water flows at all times indicate that additional I/I reduction work is required. Although complete elimination of infiltration and inflow is not economically feasible, continued improvements to the collection system are cost effective and protective of water quality through reduction of both I/I and exfiltration.
7. Order No. 98-060 recognizes the City's proposed expansion of treatment facilities and allows an increase of average dry weather flow from 1.72 mgd to 2.78 mgd upon completion of the expansion project, certification of plant capacity by a registered professional engineer, and approval by the Executive Officer. The purpose of the receiving water ammonia limitation described in Finding No. 2 above is to eliminate toxicity in the receiving stream, which is a Basin Plan requirement. The Discharger may not be able to consistently comply with Receiving Water Limitations D.1 for ammonia until the completion of the proposed plant expansion project. Accordingly, this Order provides a time schedule for the Discharger to complete its expansion project and to come into compliance with the receiving water ammonia limitation.

10. On 17 April 1998, in Sacramento, California, after due notice to the City of Grass Valley and all other affected persons, the Board conducted a public hearing at which the Discharger appeared and evidence was received concerning the discharge.
11. The issuance of this Order is an enforcement action taken by a regulatory agency and is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act, pursuant to Section 15321(a)(2), Title 14, California Code of Regulations..
12. Any person adversely affected by this action of the Board may petition the State Water Resources Control Board to review the action. The petition must be received by the State Board within 30 days of the date on which the Board took action. Copies of the law and regulations applicable to filing petitions will be provided on request.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. Cease and Desist Order No. 96-199 is rescinded.
2. The City of Grass Valley shall continue implementation of its Collection System Improvement Program to reduce I/I, improve treatment plant performance, and minimize threats of collection system overflows.
3. The City of Grass Valley shall comply with Receiving Water Limitations D.1 for ammonia listed in Finding No. 2 above and complete the following tasks in accordance with the following compliance schedule:

<u>Task</u>	<u>Compliance Date</u>
Final Plant Expansion Design	<b>31 January 1999</b>
Bidding/Award Contract	<b>6 July 1999</b>
Construction Completed	<b>8 July 2001</b>
Full Compliance with Order No. 98-060	<b>1 December 2001</b>

4. If the expansion project is completed prior to the schedule indicated in No. 3 above, then compliance with Receiving Water Limitation D.1 from Finding No. 2 above shall be required upon approval by the Executive Officer of the expansion certification described in Finding No. 7 above.
5. The City of Grass Valley shall prepare and submit Technical Reports on 15 October and 15 April of each year to report progress towards compliance with Nos. 2 and 3 above. The reports shall cover the prior six-month period and shall include the following:

- a. A description of work completed and in progress on the Collection System Improvement Program. The schedule for proposed work shall also be included.
  - b. A summary of overflow events and poor treatment plant performance associated with excessive Inflow and Infiltration.
  - c. A summary of Receiving Water Monitoring results for ammonia, temperature, and pH.
  - d. The status of scheduled tasks and of the treatment plant expansion project.
6. If, in the opinion of the Executive Officer, the City of Grass Valley violates this Order, the Executive Officer may apply to the Attorney General for judicial enforcement or issue a complaint for Administrative Civil Liability.

I, GARY M. CARLTON, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, on 17 April 1998.

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GARY M. CARLTON, Executive Officer

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